

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which changes are indicated by strikethrough and/or underscoring. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended). A cooking stove, comprising:

a hollow shell formed from heat-tolerant material, said shell having a plurality of spaced-apart alignment openings formed therein, where said alignment openings are spaced away from an upper edge of said shell;

a substructure for supporting said shell;

a burner assembly operatively attached to said shell or to said substructure; and

a vessel support rack for placement on said shell, said vessel support rack defining a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially flat lower surface,

said vessel support rack further defining a second vessel-supporting surface on a second side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially non-flat lower surface, said second vessel supporting surface being curved such that an outer edge thereof is vertically offset relative to an inner portion thereof, wherein said vessel support rack has a plurality of projections thereon which fit into said alignment openings of said shell, whereby said vessel support rack can be stably supported on said shell;

wherein said shell is configured to support said vessel support rack thereon with either said first vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing upwardly.

2. (Original). The stove of claim 1, wherein said second vessel-supporting surface is substantially concave.
3. (Original). The stove of claim 2, wherein said vessel support rack is configured to support a wok on said second vessel-supporting surface.
4. [Canceled]
5. (Original). The stove of claim 1, wherein said vessel support rack comprises a plurality of interconnected support brackets.
6. (Currently Amended). ~~The stove of claim 5, A cooking stove, comprising:~~
a hollow shell formed from heat-tolerant material;
a substructure for supporting said shell;
a burner assembly operatively attached to said shell or to said substructure; and
a vessel support rack for placement on said shell, said vessel support rack defining a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially flat lower surface,
said vessel support rack further defining a second vessel-supporting surface on a second side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially non-flat lower surface, said second vessel supporting surface being curved such that an outer edge thereof is vertically offset relative to an inner portion thereof, wherein said vessel support rack comprises a plurality of interconnected support brackets, wherein each of said support brackets has a first projection on

said first side thereof, and a second projection on said second side thereof;

and wherein said shell is configured to support said vessel support rack thereon with either said first vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing upwardly.

7. (Previously Presented). The stove of claim 1, wherein said vessel support rack comprises at least one circular metal ring interconnecting a plurality of support segments.

8. (Original). The stove of claim 1, wherein said substructure comprises a plurality of height-adjustable legs.

9. (Currently amended). ~~The stove of claim 1,~~ A cooking stove, comprising:

a hollow shell formed from heat-tolerant material, wherein said shell has a plurality of vent holes formed therein, each of said vent holes disposed on an outer surface thereof at a respective location distant spaced apart from an upper edge of the shell, the vent holes used to admit combustion air;

a substructure for supporting said shell;

a burner assembly operatively attached to said shell or to said substructure; and

a vessel support rack for placement on said shell, said vessel support rack defining a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially flat lower surface,

said vessel support rack further defining a second vessel-supporting surface on a second side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially non-flat lower surface, said second vessel supporting surface being curved such that an outer edge thereof is vertically offset

relative to an inner portion thereof;

wherein said shell is configured to support said vessel support rack thereon with either said first vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing upwardly.

10. (Original). The stove of claim 1, wherein said shell has an intermediate ledge portion formed therein for supporting said vessel support rack thereon.

11. (Currently amended). A cooking stove, comprising:

a hollow shell formed from heat-tolerant material;

a substructure for supporting said shell;

a burner assembly operatively attached to said shell or to said substructure, at least part of said burner assembly being disposed inside of said shell; and

a vessel support rack for engaging placement on said shell, said vessel support rack comprising a plurality of interconnected support segments which cooperate to define a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially flat lower surface,

said support segments further cooperating to define a second vessel-supporting surface on a second side of said vessel support rack for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially non-flat lower surface, said second vessel-supporting surface being curved such that an outer periphery thereof is higher than an inner portion thereof;

wherein said shell is configured to support said vessel support rack thereon with either said first vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing upwardly, and wherein the highest portion of the stove is defined by the upward-facing surface of the vessel

support rack, when the stove is arranged with the vessel support rack supported on the shell.

12. (Currently Amended). A cooking stove, comprising:

a hollow shell comprising a plurality of spaced-apart alignment connectors configured to receive mating connectors of a vessel support rack, each of said alignment connectors positioned on said shell at a respective location spaced apart from an edge of said shell;

a substructure for supporting said shell;

a burner assembly, at least part of which is disposed within said shell; and

a vessel support rack for placement on said shell, said vessel support rack comprising a plurality of interconnected support brackets which cooperate to define a first, substantially planar vessel-supporting surface on a first side of said vessel support rack, said support brackets further cooperating to define a second, substantially concave vessel-supporting surface on a second side of said vessel support rack which is substantially opposite said first side thereof;

said vessel support rack further comprising a plurality of spaced-apart mating connectors on said first side thereof which are alignable with said alignment connectors of said shell; and a plurality of spaced-apart mating connectors on said second side thereof which are alternately alignable with said alignment connectors of said shell;

whereby said vessel support rack is installable in aligned relation to said shell with either said first side or said second side thereof facing upwardly.

13. (Original). The stove of claim 12, wherein each of said support brackets has a first projection on said first side thereof, and a second projection on said second side thereof.

14. (Original). The stove of claim 12, wherein said vessel support rack comprises at least one metal ring interconnecting said support brackets.
15. (Original). The stove of claim 12, wherein said substructure comprises a plurality of height-adjustable legs.
16. (Original). The stove of claim 12, wherein said housing shell has a plurality of vent holes formed therein to admit combustion air.
17. (Original). The stove of claim 12, wherein said shell has an intermediate ledge portion formed therein for supporting said vessel support rack thereon.
18. (Currently amended). An invertable vessel support rack for placement on a stove, said vessel support rack defining a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially flat lower surface,
said vessel support rack further defining a second vessel-supporting surface on a second side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially non-flat lower surface;
wherein said vessel support rack is configured to fit on a stove with either said first vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing upwardly, and
wherein said vessel support rack comprises a plurality of radially extending plate members, each plate member comprising opposed edges and being oriented vertically such that the collective opposed edges of the plurality of plate members correspond to respective first and second vessel-supporting surfaces, one of said opposed edges being substantially curved such

that the second vessel supporting surface is shaped in a manner to support a non-flat surface of a cooking pan thereon,

wherein at least two of said plate members have a first projection on a first side thereof, and a second projection on a second side thereof, respectively.

19 (Original). The vessel support rack of claim 18, wherein said second vessel-supporting surface is substantially concave.

20. (Original). The vessel support rack of claim 19, wherein said vessel support rack is configured to support a wok on said second vessel-supporting surface.